

The interview with examiner Vu on July 14, 2004 is acknowledged with appreciation. The examiner's summary of the interview appears to be an accurate and complete statement of what transpired at the interview.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify an elongated leash coupled at one end to the base and at another end to the anchor belt between sides of the base and wherein the leash is flexible and allows the anchor belt to move. In Berringer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,705,676) the leash (retainer 70) is not coupled at one end to the base and at another end to the anchor belt and wherein the leash is not flexible and allows the anchor belt to move.

Claim 16 avoids Berringer et al at least because it does not disclose a vehicle anchor system remaining, including the portion of the system received through each of the openings, coupled to the base during movement between the anchored position and the stowed position.

Claim 25 has been amended to recite a flexible leash having an end coupled to the base and another end fixedly coupled to a portion of the anchor belt inside the base. In Berringer et al there is no flexible leash coupled to a portion of the anchor belt inside the base and enabling movement as recited in claim 25.

Claim 26 has been amended to recite a substantially planar leash with one side abuttingly coupled to the base and the same side abuttingly coupled to the anchor belt. In Berringer et al the leash (retainer 70) does not have one side abuttingly coupled to the base and the same side abuttingly coupled to the anchor belt.

At the interview it was agreed that, with the above amendments, claims 1-27 avoid the prior art of record subject to an additional prior art search. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-27 is, respectfully, requested.

The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters that require further action.

A check for \$18.00 for one additional dependent claim accompanies this amendment.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and that shortages in fees, if any, be charged, or any overpayment in fees credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 (20341/69447).

Respectfully submitted,
BARNES & THORNBURG

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard B. Lazarus".

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